Mining projects undertaken by MMTC in Rajasthan

3491. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to State :

(a) whether there are any new mining projects undertaken by the Minerals and Metal Trading Corporation in Rajasthan.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the MMTC has made any new surveys to find new Minerals in Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

(c) No, Sir

Judicious exploitation of mineral resources

3492. SHRI R. P. GOENKA : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to State :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a recent report entitled "undermining India" brought out by Kalpvariksh, a Non-Governmental Organisation highligthing that indiscriminate mining of bauxite, iron ore, lime stone etc. in certains parts of the country is destroying some of the most ecologically sensitive areas, including catchment that provide water to millions of people, and is a threat to long term water security;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) details of fresh strategies drawn up for a more judicious exploitation of the mineral resources of the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Mines, Government of India is aware of recent Newspaper reports on the concerns expressed in a study done by Kalpavariksh, a non-Governmental Organisation, in their report "Undermining India".

The National Mineral Policy, 1993 (NMP), *inter alia* recognizes that the policies governing the mining and mineral sector should be harmonized with the policies governing industrial and socio-economic developments in the country. Some mineral rich areas are ecologically fragile and some are biologically rich.